THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Although there is a prescribed tenure but it is subject to exigencies of service.

(b) The following officers in the grade of Station Director have not been transferred since 1991:—

(i) Shri Fayyaz Sheheryar, Station Director, Radio Kashmir, Jammu.

(ii) Smt. Sukhjinder Kaur, Joint Director (Farm & Home), Directorate General, All India Radio.

(c) and (d) The transfers ordered in 1992 were by and large implemented, but there have been some cases where orders had to be modified either in public interest or on account of accentuating personal problems.

Closure of Cinema Theatres

4082. SHRI C. PRATHAPA REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that approximately 500 cinema theatres throughout the country have been either closed or converted into commercial complexes, creating a threat to Film Industry; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) According to information avaiable in the Films Division, a total of 466 cinema houses remained closed in the entire country during the last 8 years. Establishment and closure of cinema houses is in the private sector and is governed by market forces. Licensing of theatres falls within the purview of State Governments/Union Territory Administrations.

Telecast of programmes from border areas of Pakistan

4083. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item published in the Indian Express, New Delhi, dated 27th April, 1997 captioned "Thar turns to Pakistan TV as DD staffers play truant";

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the total expenditure incurred on setting up high power transmitters at Ramgarh, Chauhatan and at Massonia Hills in Jodhpur during 1993-97 including usages;

(c) whether DD worked out any compromise plan for their engineering staff; and

(d) by when, Indian programmes would be telecast from the border areas of Rajasthan,

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During 1993 to 1997 the total expenditure incurred on the setting up of High Power Transmitters at Ramgarh, Chauhatan and Massonia Hils in Jodhpur is Rs. 295.55 lakhs.

(c) and (d) Regular transmission from these transmitters would be started as soon as the requisite posts are sanctioned by the competent authority. The question of having any compromise plan for engineering staff does not arise.